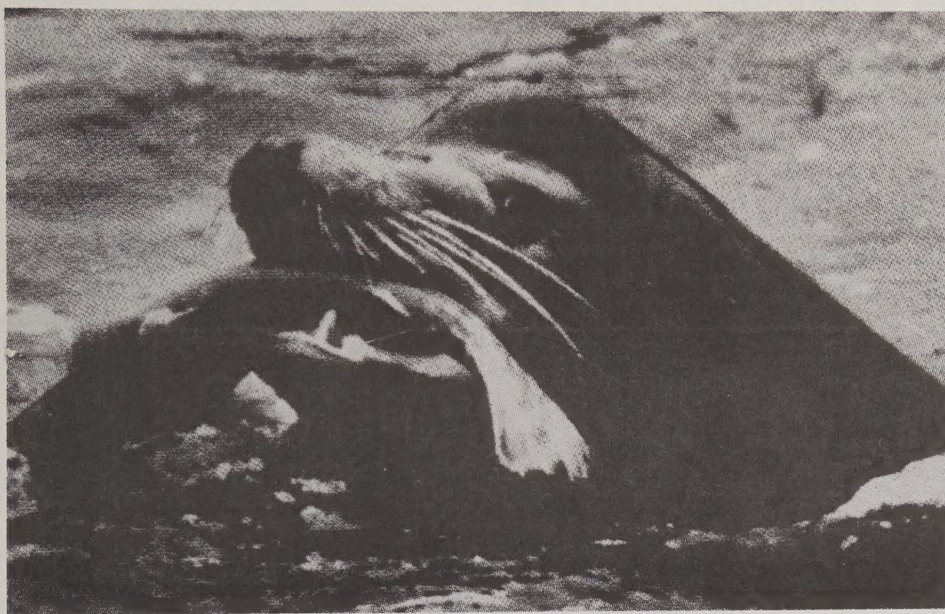


SAVE CRFPU Columbia River Gillnetter

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COLUMBIA RIVER FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE UNION

SPRING, 1989



He's hungry Herschel the sea lion poses for the camera while lunching on a nice one at the Ballard Locks.

It was the Season of the Sea Lions

Columbia River Gillnetters cast their nets in the water for the 1989 winter season at noon Wednesday, February 15, for a 17-day opening which saw two extensions.

Amid claims of low water temperatures and stormy weather conditions, it was the seals and the sea lions who stole the show, as well as many a fish, from the gillnetters.

Explosives, recordings of whale sounds, nets, cages, drug injections and rubber bullets all failed to keep the mammals at bay while they continued to take a bite out of the returning run at the Ballard Locks, as well as out of local fishermen's nets.

And all the fishermen could do was grumble.

Protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the sea lions (and seals) became a major factor in the winter season fishery on the Columbia this year, partly due to a late run of

smelt, their principal source of food, which didn't appear until later in the season.

Fishermen landed **13,120** upriver spring chinook salmon as of March 9, the final day of the season, which was well short of the Columbia River Compact quota total of **21,000** fish allotted for the season. Just **930** were taken during the first two days.

While the sea lions feasted on the fishermen's catch, the cold water temperatures and mother nature also took their toll. According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, water temperatures were just 35 degrees prior to the season opening, and didn't rise above 40 degrees until the end of February.

Winter storms also added to the excitement, as winds of up to 80 mph later in the season contributed to the poor showing.

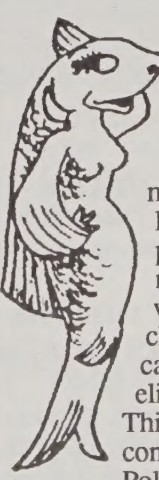
(Related stories on page 3, 4)

Gillnetter marks year #20 with new size, format

ASTORIA — Welcome to the new *Columbia River Gillnetter*. The quarterly newsletter of the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union is celebrating its twentieth year of informing and representing the lower Columbia commercial fishing industry with a new size and format.

A Westport, Oregon graphic design and promotion studio, Image Designworks, has created the first new format for the *Gillnetter* since the first issue appeared in 1969. It will handle publishing, layout design, graphics, typesetting and copywriting for long-time editor Don Riswick of Astoria.

Image Designworks is a joint adventure of life-long Astoria area resident Michael V. Demase and Thomas A. Wynn of Chicago, Illinois. Both Demase and Wynn are graduates of the University of Oregon, with degrees in journalism and visual communications, respectively.



Sally the salmon says ...

"Sport fishermen are now trying to make it legal to use two fishing poles at once to catch more of me. Next they will probably want to change the law so they can sell the surplus, and eliminate the gillnetters. This idea, most likely, comes from the 'Hogline Politicians' of Portland."



COLUMBIA RIVER FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE UNION
 322 Tenth Street Astoria, Oregon 503/325-2702

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FOREWORD



The Gillnetter is published to keep commercial fishermen and the public informed of the true facts and happenings in the Columbia River Fishing Industry, and all people connected with it. The advertisements which appear make it possible to publish this paper and we hope you will, in return, patronize and thank the business people who contribute to our cause. Articles, photos and letters are welcome for submission.

*Many CRFPU members serve on various agencies and advisory boards.
 Members are encouraged to contact individuals regarding
 specific issues, or call the Union office.*

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Editor's Page

"Bill is just plain radical"

It seems there is a group of people who are trying their best to put thousands more people out of work in the fishing and timber industries.

Radicalism seems to be very popular in Oregon, and the same people are at it again. Representatives Sowa, McTeague and Shiprack are up to their old tricks, trying to choke out the fishing seasons until they get it all for the sportsmen. The most radical group is the Northwest Steelheaders, with the "Hogline Politicians" from Oregon City paddling not far behind.

The public is surely smart enough to know that runs of fish have been increasing every year since the treaty with Canada was signed. Last year saw the biggest run ever for the Willamette River since they started counting. The fall salmon run in the Columbia was the largest in 40 years — why should the sportsmen get it all?

And they want the sturgeon too. If the harvest is reduced, it should not be at the expense of the commercial fishermen. The commercial catch of sturgeon has been stable for many years, while the sports catch has skyrocketed from 6,600 in 1972 to 62,400 in 1987. Three- to four-foot sturgeon now comprise 90 percent of the sport catch, and both Oregon and Washington fisheries departments have moved the minimum length to 40 inches as of April 1, 1989, on the main stem Columbia River below Bonneville dam.

This **House Bill 3215** now in the works would stop the commercial taking of sturgeon. But the most preposterous part of the bill would have the fisheries departments operate **fish traps** above Willamette Falls, with the surplus sold to retailers for human consumption. You can tell these representatives must be dryland farmers who know nothing about fish or fish traps. Is the state going into the fish business now?

Where this bill was dreamed up is anyone's guess, but let's not damage an industry older than the state itself to satisfy radical sportsfishermen who also now want to use two poles at once to catch more fish.

For gillnetters the **1989 winter season** was the most frustrating ever. Wind, rain and cold made the going rough most of the time. February water temperatures at Bonneville dam were the sixth coldest since 1939. For 24 straight days the average was 36°.

Cold water at Astoria severely limits salmon and smelt entry into the river. Despite two extensions, only 13,120 fish were caught, well shy of the 21,000 fish quota. March 9, the last day, saw a pretty good showing at buoys 10 and 12, but afternoon brought an 80-mph wind, which kept many fishermen at the dock.

Adding to the frustration were thousands of seals and sea lions (probably 3000 of them between Tongue Point and the bar) — the most in the river's history. At night fishermen were com-

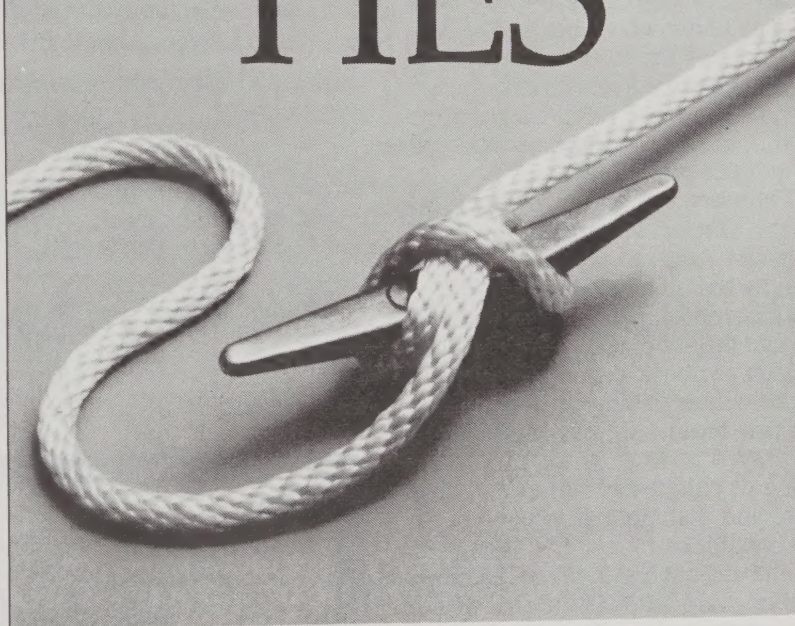
pletely at their mercy, and many fished only during the day.

We received an average of **\$3.50 lb.** for our fish, which averaged about 21 lbs. In one stretch we made 9 drifts before netting one fish — the rest were heads, tails and guts.

The mammal people are talking about another five-year study, but by that time our fish will be eaten, and the mammals will starve like they did in Norway not too long ago.

We need help today, not five years from now. Let's bring some of the arm-chair politicians from Washington D.C. over here to the Columbia to see what's happening. Years ago we had a hired "seal hunter" with a \$25 bounty who chased them toward the mouth of the river. Maybe that's what we need now. —Don Riswick

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Secretary Report

ONCE AGAIN we are busy keeping our fishery open and alive. With bills being introduced in Washington and Oregon Legislative sessions to once again try to end our fishery on the mighty Columbia River, our working together as fishermen, families, processors, unions and other organizations such as Salmon for All, and keeping our fishery on the river is again top priority.

The fish bills that have been introduced to limit or do away with our fishery have been more or less watered down. I think this proves that the best way to defend ourselves against these types of bills is to have a large turnout of fishermen at these hearings. With all of us doing our part to educate the public, we will continue to fish.

Of great concern to our fishery at this time is the overabundance of seals. The numbers have seriously increased, and it is affecting our fishery.

To pick up a net after a drift and find only a head or tail is frustrating. The seals are very aggressive — they bark and let us know who's boss. The Marine Mammal Protection Act and its supporters are going to have to change things, or soon you'll have a shortage of fish in the marketplace, as you just can't sell heads and tails.

In February we attended meetings with the Marine Mammal Protection people and received positive responses, but by the time our message reaches Washington D.C., politics take over, and the seriousness of the matter is put on the back burner. We went into our winter fishing season expecting a few more fish, but Mother Nature played a few tricks this year, sending us cold temperatures and cold water, and fish just don't move in those conditions.

Smelt runs have also taken a strange turn this year — this is the first year I can remember where there has been no smelt available on the market.

Looking ahead to the remainder of 1989, we are looking at another short Blueback or sockeye season. We may get a little more fishing time in August, with maybe a later opening in September due to a lower abundance of tulle stocks in the tributaries. And, most likely there will be no Big Creek fishery this year.

Coho should be about average, or a little above. Overall, we should again have a pretty good year in 1989.

—Jack Marincovich

Columbia River fishery recategorized

Marine Mammal Act amended

Late in 1988 Congress amended the Marine Mammal Protection Act and replaced the general permit and certificate of inclusion with a new "exemption" system, which authorizes the incidental taking of marine mammals in commercial fishing operations. Congress established this system to provide a means of collecting additional information on marine mammal and fisheries interactions so that a long-term program can be designed to manage the incidental taking of marine mammals.

Under this exemption program, authorized for five years, commercial fishermen will be exempted from the Act's takings prohibitions, if they comply with the new requirements.

The amendments require that all commercial fisheries be listed in one of three categories, based upon the frequency of incidental takings. However, Congress has specified that some fisheries, including the **Columbia River Gillnet fishery**, be placed in **Category I**, which is explained below.

CATEGORY I — Fisheries which have frequent incidental taking of marine mammals

CATEGORY II — Fisheries which have occasional incidental taking of marine mammals

CATEGORY III — Fisheries which have a remote likelihood of or no incidental taking of marine mammals

Also mandatory are new fishermen's requirements. Fishing vessels fishing in Category I or II fisheries must:

1. Obtain an **exemption decal and registration document**
2. Submit **reports** about marine mammal interactions on a seasonal or annual basis

In addition, vessels in Category I must carry an **on-board observer** if requested, or participate in an alternate observation program.

In order to fish legally in a Category I or Category II fishery, owners of vessels must register with NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Fisheries by **July 21, 1989** and obtain an "Exemption Certificate and decal for display on the vessel. The NOAA, which may be reached at 206/526-6140, will mail forms to fishermen in the near future.

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President's Corner

Fellow fishermen, to bring you up to date on the current issues at hand, it appears that we are leading in the on-going battle of priority legislation so far, but we must not be lured into thinking that the battle is over.

Our adversaries have vowed for a fight to the death over these issues, and have promised us the same fate as the dinosaurs.

Washington State Representative Dean Sutherland and Senator Brad Owens have signed a pact with the devil to put us out of business. We must not let this happen. We must make every sacrifice to ensure that good wins over evil.

CRFPU's united coalition "Salmon for All" is working hard in behalf of the commercial fishing industry. A special thanks to all who have helped make it happen. We have many dedicated people who have sacrificed much personal time for our cause. They have all earned our respect. Again — many thanks to all.

I attended the annual PSGA meeting in Everett, WA on February 25, 1989. Guest speakers were Joe Blum, WDF director; Ed Manary, WDF legislative liaison; Sen. Jack Metcalf; Harriet Spanel; Bob Williams (Washington '92); Milo Moore, Tony Cadden and Greg Blume (Salmon for Washington); Bob Zuanich of the Purse Seine Owner's Association.

A good exchange of ideas was brought out between the members and speakers, although there was some difference of opinions.

Looks like "Salmon for Washington" is off to a good start. It will help complete the unification of the Washington and Oregon commercial fishing industry. Welcome aboard! Together we stand, divided we fall!

In closing, I strongly urge you to keep writing letters to the lawmakers in both states, as well as newspapers, and keep the phones ringing everyday! My phone number is 206/577-0748.

—Bruce Crookshanks

Legislative numbers:
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 (Mon-Sat till 1 pm)
Oregon toll-free:
1-800-332-2313
 (Mon-Fri 8 am to 5 pm)

Editor's Desk

Let's talk about Snag Pulling

During the winter gillnet season this year, many newcomers as well as regular fishermen enjoyed good fishing in the waters above the Columbia River bridge, fairly clear of snags. The waters are clear because a few fishermen, usually the same, took the time to remove the snags to reduce gear damage.

We hire divers, make new snag nets, and apply to the state for snag permits (which are good only 10 days). We also have set up a Lower River Snag fund at the Astoria First Interstate Bank, under the signatures of Phil Johnson and Don Riswick. We ask fishermen from Tongue Point to the bar to pay \$50 per year in dues, tax deductible.

It is unfair for a few fishermen to shoulder the responsibility of keeping the lower river clear of snags, and our program cannot continue without your help. Many fishermen who regularly fish these areas (and do very well) have never been out snagging, so here's a chance to contribute.

On page 35 is a special clipout to send in your dues. Don't put it off any longer — we need your help.

ATTENTION YOUNGS RIVER FISHERMEN: A snag fund has also been started for your fishery. Fish buyers have receipt books to take the \$20 yearly dues.

CRFPU NEEDS YOU!

We depend upon membership dues to keep us afloat and abreast of current fishing issues. Many fishermen have "slipped by" without contributing, using every excuse in the book. Why not join now and keep our union strong! Also attend our meetings — we can't represent you if we don't know what you're thinking. Many fishermen have had to turn to more lucrative jobs to supplement their incomes.

We encourage part-time fishermen to join CRFPU! We need your support! Yearly dues are \$150, and may be paid in installments. Use handy clip-out on page 35!



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Marine Electronics 1989

High Tech on the High Seas

It wasn't all that long ago when a citizen's band radio, a VHF, a loran and a fathometer made for a well-equipped fishing vessel. Today we find ourselves fast approaching the 1990's, and modern technology has advanced marine electronics to a level of amazing sophistication.

Ergonomics, the science of making things more effective and easier to use, is a commonplace word in the car business, and has now crept into the pilot-house as well. At *Marco*, for instance, builders angle wheelhouse instrument panels to minimize sunlight reflection in the daytime, and windshield reflections when running at night.

Not "high tech" enough for you? How about a sophisticated RCA computer system with an in-pilothouse closed-circuit television (CCTV) screen which monitors and constantly displays all engine functions, as well as the engine itself. Push another button and it becomes the captain's "rear-view mirror," as a crystal-clear view of the after deck, the side decks and the rear view appears, thanks to strategically placed cameras. Repeating monitors can also be placed on the flying bridge if desired.

Or, try a Javelin night vision system on for size. Similar to night vision visors worn by airplane pilots, the system multiplies whatever light is available by 65,000 times, (through a camera on the mast), and clearly displays it on the CCTV in the pilothouse. It allows the captain to navigate dangerous or unfamiliar waters at night without looking out the window. The system is so sensitive it will pick up submerged "deadheads" and lights from an on-coming vessel before radar can sense an image.

VHF's are also becoming more sophisticated. Ever wished for better (and more private) ship-to-shore communication capabilities? Well, say goodbye to the Marine Operator and hello to the ICOM ICM500, the only VHF on the market which allows land-based telephones to communicate with it through a network of independent marine radiotelephone companies. Using the new processes of "DSC" (digital selective calling) and "dual multiple frequency tones," the VHF is linked to the mainland via the assigned marine public correspondence channels — 24 through 28 and 84 through 86. Being digitally encoded, reception is better and privacy is assured.

Also brand new is the duplexing VHF, which allows sender and receiver to talk at the same time without having to worry about pushing and releasing the mike button. This technology is so new, you won't have an easy time finding a VHF with this capability. Only ICOM and Robertson-Shipmate offer duplexing VHF's at this time, at prices approaching \$2,500.

We've come a long way since the sail-boat days.

—Michael V. Demase

If at first you don't succeed...

OLYMPIA, WA — Try, try again. That seems to be the motto of Washington State Representatives Dick King and Dean Sutherland.

King, chairman of the House Wildlife and Fisheries Committee, and Sutherland, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, presented a bill this winter to Washington lawmakers which was designed to make that state "the sport fishing capital of the nation," and all but put an end to commercial fishing on the Columbia River.

The bill, dubbed HB1105, would have forced the Department of Fisheries to essentially disregard commercial fisheries in its management of fish species including, but not limited to, coho and chinook salmon as well as steelhead.


The bill drew intense protest from CRFPU, Salmon for All, and hundreds of commercial fishermen in Oregon and Washington, who once again traveled by the busload to Olympia's legislative committee rooms to support and protect their livelihood.

And that has made the difference.

In February, HB1105 was tossed aside by a Washington House legislative panel who fortunately saw it for what it really was — discriminatory to commercial fishermen. The bill gave recreational interests not just a slice of the pie, but essentially all of it.

Then, a weaker version of the bill was introduced to committee after it became clear the first draft was well off the mark, and well shy of needed votes. This watered-down version, dubbed HB2085, said that the Washington director of fisheries "shall

Continued on page 15



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Yaquina Bay roe-herring fishermen sign share pact

NEWPORT — Oregon's smallest fishery has taken a great stride toward fisheries management with a voluntary three-year agreement to share the annual catch equally.

Yaquina Bay's nine-boat roe-herring fleet has long been very competitive. Some fishermen hired airplanes last year to fly the bay, spotting for schools of herring. "It got out of hand," said Bob Jacobson, an Oregon Sea Grant extension agent and member of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission.

This year the fishery has agreed upon a voluntary individual fishermen's quota system, created and written by the fishermen themselves. It

has survived its first test — the annual fishery took place in February, and was, overall, a success. Only one fishermen kept more than his share, but was forced to give it away. "It still worked," said Gene Law, one of the nine permit holders.

Herring migrate into Yaquina Bay to spawn each year. The eggs are sold in Japan, where they are considered a delicacy. The 1988 harvest of more than 200 tons was worth about \$200,000. This year, fishermen netted about 240 tons of herring, but the price has yet to be determined.

As the catch is quite small, the fishery is limited to ten boats. One of the permits was sold last season and

bought out by the remaining nine, forming a corporate permit. Under the quota system, in effect until 1991, each fishermen is entitled to an equal share of the 240-ton quota, with excess amounts sold on the corporation permit. All fish sold on this ticket is divided equally among the nine fishermen.

This year's roe count was higher than normal, and fishermen are expecting a higher price than in 1988.

Some herring fisheries in Alaska are managed under a similar quota system, but the program is a first for Oregon fishermen. "We wanted a quota (system) where everybody would make a little money," Law added.

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In Alaska's Prince William Sound

Oil spill effects will be devastating to the environment

VALDEZ, AK — A giant Exxon oil tanker which poured over 10 million gallons of crude oil into the wildlife-rich waters of Prince William Sound will cause a tremendous amount of damage to the environment here, as well as to commercial fisheries.

The *Exxon Valdez* ran aground on a reef about 25 miles south of Valdez early Friday morning, March 24, after swinging out of the shipping lanes to avoid ice. The captain, Joseph Hazelwood, was not on the bridge until just after the incident, and an unauthorized junior officer was at the wheel when the nearly 1000-foot tanker hit bottom.

The captain, who had a history of drinking problems, was later found to be intoxicated by the Coast Guard nine hours after the accident. He was promptly fired by Exxon.

Alaska Gov. Steve Cowper has declared the sound a disaster area, an area which covers some 600 square

miles. Hundreds of oil-covered birds have been found, and several hundred seals and sea lions are trapped on rocks. There is also great concern for the millions of fish which are due to return to the spawning grounds near here. John Devens, mayor of Valdez, said the effect on the commercial fisheries, vital to the area, will be great. He claims the herring season will be lost this year, as well as a good portion of the salmon season.

Devens estimates that the loss to the commercial fishermen alone will be over \$150 million, but believes the hatcheries nearby would perhaps not be affected. "They are saveable," he said. But the fate of the returning fish is still uncertain.

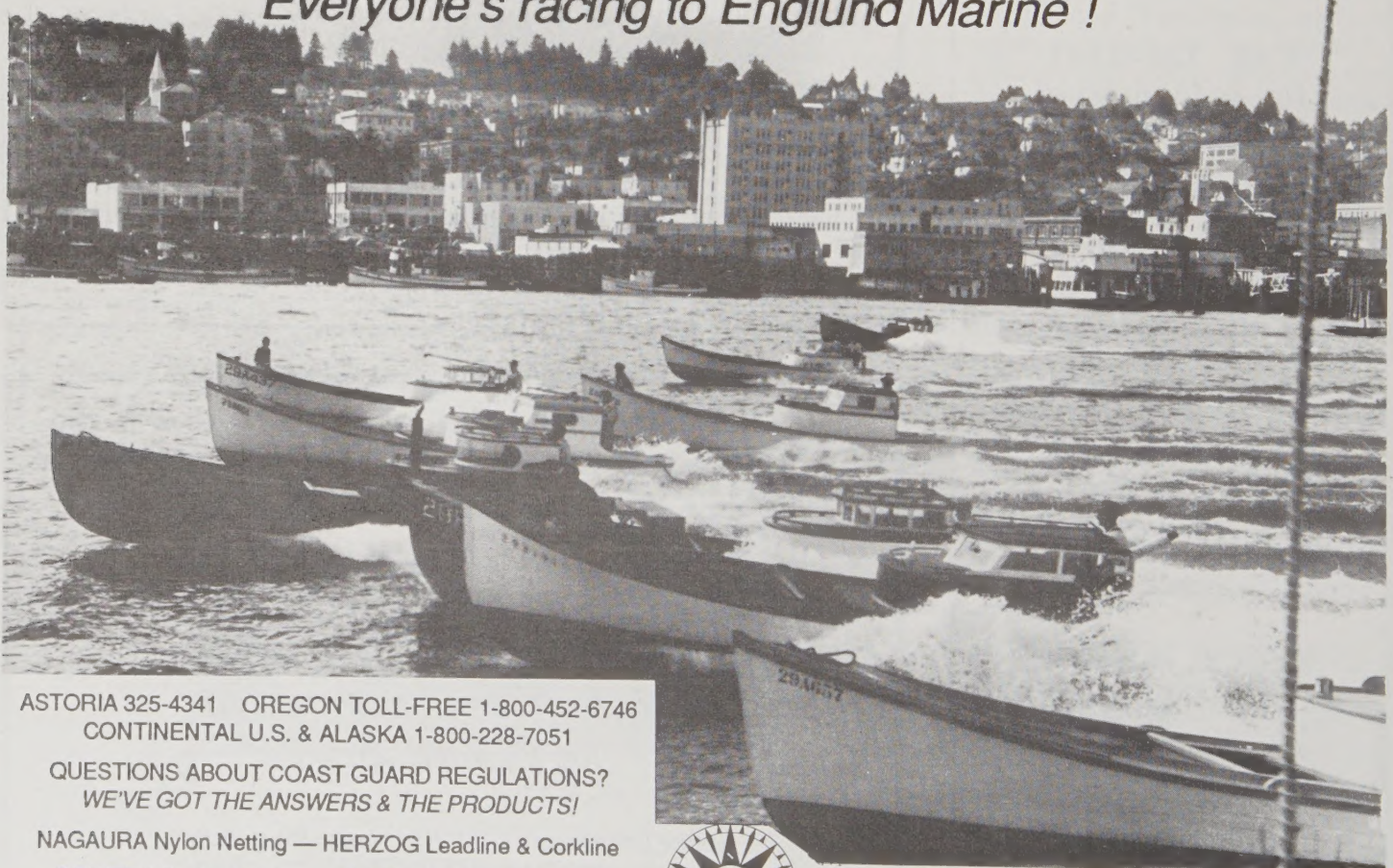
Commercial fishermen seriously question Exxon's response time to the disaster, and the company's rather carefree attitude toward the spill, and have started their own cleanup effort.

Salvage Chief heads north to aid stricken tanker

The Astoria-based rescue vessel *Salvage Chief*, famous for daring rescues of many a ship in distress, has been asked to help rescue the *Exxon Valdez* off the rocks. The grounded supertanker remains stranded on a charted reef nearly two weeks after dumping the nation's worst-ever oil spill into Alaska's pristine Prince William Sound.

The rescue vessel, owned by the Fred Devine Diving and Salvage Co. of Portland, was due to arrive at the scene April 4-5, depending upon weather conditions.

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Oregon salmon fishermen netted their largest catch since 1970, with nearly 18 million pounds landed, worth \$39 million. The 1987 catch was 15 million pounds worth \$27 million.

Non-Indian gillnetters caught 7.4 million pounds of salmon in 1988, worth over \$14 million. Treaty Indians above Bonneville Dam caught 1.6 million pounds, worth about \$3.2 million. The troll catch was nearly 10 million pounds of chinook and coho, valued at \$22 million.

Aquaculture, which gives nature a helping hand in raising fish in hatcheries and fish farms, contributed nearly \$4 million to Oregon in 1988. In the same year, commercial fishing reflected 12,500 jobs in Oregon, mostly in the coastal areas.

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Sturgeon angling restrictions tightened

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has tightened restrictions on recreational sturgeon anglers in the Columbia River below Bonneville Dam.

Beginning April 1, there will be a new minimum length of 40 inches required of all sportsman-caught sturgeon, up from the previous 36 inches.

The maximum length remains the same at 72 inches, as does the daily bag limit of two fish. The punchcard requirement for sturgeon also remains.

Biologists are worried that too many sturgeon are being caught with sport gear, and too few are recruited into the general sturgeon population. Recreational anglers took nearly 50,000 sturgeon in 1988, while gillnetters reaped a harvest of just 6500.

Fishermen attend hearings on bills

Dozens of commercial fishermen from all parts of Oregon traveled to Salem's legislative hearing rooms to voice their opposition to House Bills 3215 and 3219, both of which seriously hinder commercial fishing.

The hearings, sponsored by the Oregon House Water Policy Committee, were held April 6 and 13.

The duo of bills are in the same vein as the recent Washington legislation, which was strongly defeated.

Fishing license fees may rise

SALEM — Commercial and sport fishermen alike may be paying more for their licenses, an Oregon Senate committee is considering.

The plan is for the additional revenue to be put into a multi-million-dollar program designed to enhance fish runs, and into upgrading the state's hatcheries and coaxing more fish into Oregon's rivers and streams.

Under the proposal, commercial troll salmon fishermen would pay \$75 for a permit, up from the \$10 currently charged. Commercial gillnet fishermen would also pay \$75, up from just \$1. The poundage fee for commercially-caught salmon would increase from 5 cents per pound to 8.75 cents per pound.

Resident combination hunting and fishing licenses would cost \$21, up from \$19 now. Resident recreational fishing licenses would jump from \$12 to \$14, while a junior resident would pay \$5 instead of \$4. A one-day license for recreational users would cost \$4.50, up from \$3.50.

The bill, dubbed Number 41, creates a new overseeing board, with seven members appointed by the governor. The board would watch over the distribution of the money, said to head for Oregon's needy hatcheries, as well as for the improvement of fish runs on the state's rivers and streams.



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After 10 years of service

Indian fish commission director to retire

S. Timothy Wapato, longtime executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, has announced his retirement.

A celebration dinner marking his ten years of influential directing was held in Portland April 4.

Wapato, formerly a law enforcement officer with the Los Angeles Police Department for 21 years, began his work with the newly-formed tribal commission in 1979. Since its creation, the commission has become a major voice in Pacific Northwest fish and wildlife matters.

Wapato is probably best known for his work on the United States—Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty, which was signed into law in April, 1985. The treaty was an important breakthrough in the management of the two countries' interception of salmon fisheries.

Former president Reagan selected Wapato as the Northwest Indian tribe representative to the United States' 4-member panel on the U.S.—Canada Pacific Salmon Commission, which implemented the treaty in 1985.



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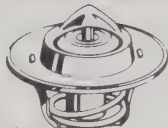
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A special tribute to two longtime fishermen

Wallace "Wad" Mustola
June 1, 1926 — August 28, 1988

A fourth-generation Mayger fisherman, Wad began fishing at the age of 15 on the Mayger drift. Wad's Greatgrandfather Joseph came from Finland. His Grandfather Henry, and Father Charlie fished the Mayger drift and lived on Mustola's island. Wad began fishing Kodiak, Alaska in 1949, and Bristol Bay in 1974.

Whenever Wad was asked when he would quit and retire from fishing, his reply was always the same, "When I can't climb those ladders anymore." Wad left the bay early last year with back pain, which proved to be terminal cancer. It was his last fishing season. He was 62.

Wad served in the Navy during WWII. He is survived by his wife, Betty, whom he married September 24, 1950. Also surviving is the fifth generation of Mayger fishermen, his sons, Ron Greg, Steven and Jim, who will be fishing Bristol Bay this year, and a daughter, Diana Compton, who makes a drift with a brother quite often.

Eight grandchildren, many of whom also like to fish, also survive, as does his longtime fishing partner and friend, Philip Hyke. Wad and Philip were fondly known to some as the "hobo brothers." If this writer may add, the only fishery I ever remember Wad backing out of in the Lower Columbia is smelt. I think every fisherman who ever held a dip pole can relate to that.

Ernest F. "Ernie" Niemela
June 25, 1916 — March 6, 1989

A tradition of 102 years of fishing in Mayger for the Niemela family began when Ernie's grandfather Ole arrived from Finland with his 3-year-old son John.

Born in Mayger to John and Emma Niemela, Ernie began fishing on the Columbia River at age 12, and fished all of his life until his retirement. A lifelong resident of Mayger, Ernie died in a Longview nursing home, suffering a recent stroke.

He attended Mayger elementary, and graduated from Clatskanie High in 1934. He married Mabel Viuhkola July 17, 1941, in Bremerton, Washington. She survives at the family home in Mayger.

Mr. Niemela was a member of Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union, and was a retired lieutenant fireman with the Clatskanie Volunteer Fire Department.

Also surviving are two sons, James of Homer, Alaska, and Kenneth of Clatskanie; nephew Gary Viuhkola of Clatskanie; brother Jess of Hays, Kansas; two sisters, Ann Blair, Milwaukie, and Ida DeRock, Seaside; Grandson Chad and Granddaughter Kara of Clatskanie.



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Overheard at Olympia ...

From Garry Brown, Economist: "In real dollars the commercial fishing (industry) is clearly more valuable than the recreational industry. The commercial industry contributed \$225,000,000 to the state's economy (in 1988). This compares to about \$18,000,000 by the recreational industry."

"If you intend to make decisions based on non-dollar benefits, the recreational industry clearly has some other contributions. But if we're looking at dollars which go into the state's economy, which can be spent, which can be taxed, which generate jobs, which generate income, there's no way you can argue that the commercial fishery does not make a greater contribution to the state's economy."

"If you were to base decisions strictly on the totals that have been suggested by the existing work, there could be very dramatic adverse affects to the state's economy. What we have here clearly is an option to reduce employment and real disposable income in the state, in exchange for some theoretical or psychic recreational benefits, denied as the chance to catch an additional fish or two."

From Jim Harris, Salmon for All President: "The state has a fair responsibility to manage its resources in a fair and equitable manner for the benefit of all user groups. Fish are a public resource and to say that one has priority creates an inequality."



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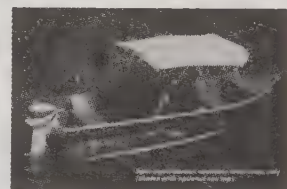
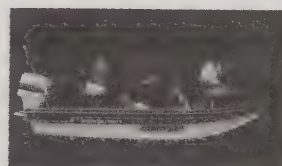
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Winter Indian fishery report

A Winter season (February 1 to April 1) was established for treaty fishermen for the first time in 1973. During 1973-76 few fishermen participated. The fishery grew during 1977-81 (except 1980) with steelhead comprising the majority of the catch. Columbia River Compact seasons occurring 1982-88 have ended on March 21 to reduce the catch of upriver spring chinook. Some tribes have closed the season prior to March 21 in recent years to avoid harvesting the spring chinook. Sturgeon landings have become significant since 1984.

The February 1-March 21, 1988 winter fishery produced a record high steelhead catch of 10,800, 200 spring chinook and 1,600 white sturgeon. The steelhead taken were a mixture of different stocks. The 1988 catch of 10,800 was concluded to be 9,300 (86 percent) holdover summers, 1,000 (9 percent) late winters and 500 (5 percent) fresh summer-run fish. The spring chinook catch was comparable to low levels of recent years. The sturgeon catch was down from the record level of 1987.

The treaty Indian winter gillnet fishery began on February 1 and ended March 21, 1989, as recommended by the Columbia River Fish Management Plan, which oversees the fishery.



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Tales from the Fishermen's Wives

The Northwest Fishermen's Wives Association was formed in 1975 to mark the 100th anniversary of CRFPU.

Soon after we joined women of other Pacific coast ports in organizing the Pacific Coast Fishermen's Wives Coalition. Our newest member is a group from Courtney, British Columbia, which will become our first international chapter.

We strongly believe that there is a great need for cooperation between fisheries, as any proposed regulation of one fishery would impact all others as well. Fishing ports throughout the Northwest are also experiencing similar threats to their livelihood.

Recent cases in point are the oil spills in Alaska and Washington state, the latter of which made its way to the coast of Vancouver Island. How much damage would be done to the fishing and tourist industries should off-shore oil drills "blow-out" or overturn in a winter storm?

Uppermost in the minds of gillnetters are two bills now before the legislature in Salem which would severely curtail commercial fishing on the Columbia River. Ex-governor Bob Straub was once fond of saying that commercial fishing was a privilege, not a right. If he was correct, then the same holds true for sport fisheries.

The general public has the right to share in our resources, and, clearly, the only way most citizens can share the resource is through the efforts of the commercial fishermen.

Keep in touch with your district representative, and ask to be kept informed on the progress of HB 3219 (salmon) and HB 3215 (sturgeon). The bills are co-sponsored by Representatives Larry Sowa, Dave McTeague and Bob Shiprack. *Our future is at stake!*

Thankfully, it appears that the commercial fishermen's fight in the Washington legislature is under control.

Other projects of interest to gillnetters could be making sure congress appropriates enough funds to maintain and operate sufficient hatcheries to raise precious young fish.

The Northwest Power Planning Council needs to be coaxed to push the



Old-fashioned Police Protection

Shown here is the Astoria Police Department of 1896. Rear, left to right: Al Seafeldt, J. Sinott, O. Settern, A.B. Thompson. Seated are the chief, Clark Loughrey and Ed Hallock.

—Photo courtesy Tom Carmichael

U.S. Corps of Engineers to keep up-grading fish passage facilities on Columbia River dams. They also must make sure the mandate of congress is followed, and that sufficient water is spilled over the dams during the downriver migration periods of the smolts, which are extremely vulnerable to high losses when meeting the giant turbines.

Also vital to our future — information must be constantly presented to our congressmen about seals and sea lions — they must be kept informed of the harsh economic loss caused by these mammals. The disappointing winter season has been

most severely impacted, with no quick recourse on the horizon for the fishermen.

Finally, we tip our hat to Mr. Marc Held, biology instructor at Cleveland High School in Portland, who has en-

couraged his students to raise and release coho salmon in Crystal Spring Creek. He is to be commended for investing in

his future, as well as ours.

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Salmon for All elects '89 board of directors

ASTORIA — Salmon for All, a local Political Action Committee dedicated to preserving the lower Columbia River fishing industry, has selected its board of directors for 1989.

Processor Board members chosen were Steve Fick of Fishhawk Fisheries, Jim Harris of Jessie's Ilwaco Fish and Bob O'Bryant of Ocean Foods of Astoria.

An at-large position was filled by Jon Englund of Englund Marine Supply.

Alternate positions for the processor representatives will be filled by Jim Barclow of Jake's Seafood of Portland and Whitey Forsman of Pacific Seafood.

Fishermen board members elected were Les Clark, Bill Finucane, Jim Hogan and Alan Takalo. Alternates for the fishermen are Frances Clark, Jack Davis, Bob Hyke and Kenny Wirkkala.

Officers elected to the PAC were Jim Harris, President; Les Clark, Vice President and Jon Englund, Secretary-Treasurer.

Bob Eaton, formerly with the Greater Astoria Area Chamber of Commerce, is the executive director of Salmon for All, located at No. 1 Sixth Street, Astoria.

Fishing bill tossed aside — again

(Continued from page 6)

adopt rules and regulations that emphasize additional recreational fishing opportunities." The key wording in the bill was this, however. It stated that such regulations could not come at the expense of the commercial fisherman.

But even this diluted, shoestring effort was not enough to woo legislators, and the bill is now dead. Although King claims HB2085 was not an "I surrender" bill, it clearly shows that Washington lawmakers are not convinced of Sutherland and King's aspirations of turning their

state into a "sport fisherman's paradise."

Jim Harris, president of Salmon for All, said the bill definitely was discriminatory. "We don't believe the way to manage a resource is to prioritize one group over another, but instead to enhance the resource so there's more fish for everybody."

But the war rages on. Now the attention is directed to Salem, where proposals similar to the Washington situation have been introduced to the Oregon legislature. We can only hope the same logic and sensibility will prevail.

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Millions of salmon caught by Asian fleets

New fishermen's group claims '88 Bristol Bay run intercepted

SEATTLE — Last year's run of salmon in Alaska's rich waters was depleted by Asian fishermen, says a new commercial fishermen's protective group.

SEACOPS, the Southeast Alaska Coalition Opposed to Pirated Salmon, claims that last season's Bristol Bay run was much less than expected due to Japanese, Korean and Taiwanese fishermen who are intercepting the immature Alaska-bound salmon outside of the 200-mile limit, well before they reach Alaska fishermen's nets.

Michael Holman, Ketchikan attorney and salmon fisherman, says there can be no doubt that the Asian fishermen are responsible for the depletion. He says the foreign fleets often use nets "which are 20 miles long and more. That's why the catch was 30 percent short."

International fish traders are reporting that quite large amounts of salmon are appearing on the world market from countries such as Singapore and Thailand — countries with no salmon of their own.

According to Barry Collier, president of the Pacific Seafood Processors Association of Seattle, at least 10,000 tons of high-quality salmon has been sold in Asian markets this year alone. "That's more than 6 to 8 million salmon that has to be accounted for," Collier says.

The 1988 Alaska salmon harvest fell 30 percent short of official forecasts, and was the lowest since 1979. In Bristol Bay, perhaps the most talked-about fishery, 18 million sockeye were expected to enter the multi-river systems, but just 13 million arrived. In Southeast Alaska, 38 million pink salmon were predicted to arrive, but only 10 million have returned to their spawning grounds.

"This comes in a year with excellent ocean conditions," said Holman. "The only acceptable explanation is that somebody else is catching these fish."

U.S. Fishermen claim that the Japanese and Taiwanese squid fleet, which operates near the best salmon routes, are actually pirate salmon fisheries in disguise. "Squid gillnets are quite effective at catching 1- to 4-pound salmon," Holman said.

Wayne Lewis, chief enforcement officer for the National Marine Fisheries Service, agrees that information gathered suggests it is likely the Asians are at work catching our salmon. "It's too much to be coincidental," Lewis said. It is impossible to patrol the entire Pacific Ocean, he added.

Two years ago, federal officials uncovered a scheme in Seattle where Japanese fishermen were illegally exporting Alaska-caught salmon.

(Related stories next column and page 21)

Illegal fish operation uncovered

SEATTLE — A lengthy investigation of illegal sales of salmon caught by Taiwanese squid fishermen on the high seas has ended with the arrest of two seafood brokers.

Michel May, president of Ampac Seafoods of Seattle, and Yasu Igari of Igari & Co. Ltd., Tokyo, were apprehended at the Sea-Tac airport as they attempted to board a plane to Tokyo.

The men reportedly were videotaped by officials, showing the two offering to supply undercover federal agents with some 24 million pounds of illegally-caught salmon over a two-year period. They were charged with violating U.S. export laws, and were released after posting bond. Both men were also subpoenaed by a federal grand jury.

An international treaty states that a salmon belongs to the nation in which it spawns. All salmon in the North Pacific are presumed to be bound for the United States, Canada, Japan or the Soviet Union — not Taiwan, which has no salmon swimming in its waters.

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It's a risky business

Southwest Alaskan waters claim 26 lives in 1988

Alaska, said to be the most dangerous state in the union in which to work, took its toll on commercial fishermen in 1988.

Not only are the state's frigid temperatures, rugged terrain and merciless waters dangerous, commercial fishing is consistently the most treacherous of all Alaskan occupations. Twenty-six fishermen from all over the world succumbed to the elements in 1988 — more than any other vocation.

The whirlwind activity that goes on in the seasonal, lucrative fisheries of the Aleutians, the Bering Sea and Bristol Bay was responsible for the majority of the deaths. Surprisingly, only two of the accidents were blamed on alcohol or drugs.

While most occurred during the fishing seasons, a good portion of the deaths were spread throughout the spring, summer, fall and winter months.

One of the victims, David L. Grant, 32, of Palmer, drowned when he attempted to swim to his gillnetter from the shore of Nushagak Bay during the '88 Bristol Bay season. Reports say Grant was caught on the beach by a quickly rising tide.

Chung Sig Im, 42, of Korea, perished when he was hit by a box of frozen fish that became disconnected from its hoist during a storm on a tender in the Bering Sea.

Three-wheelers, seemingly more plentiful than automobiles in Alaska, were responsible for the death of 11-year-old Timothy Wilt of Anchorage. Timothy collided with a landing airplane on a beach near Egegik in June of last year.

Other aircraft accidents took three more lives in 1988. A mid-air helicopter collision near Dillingham claimed Larry Henesy, 45, of Tacoma, Washington and Kjetil Sangeland

of Norway, while Naknek was without its only radio station after Albert Kelly, 66, of Anchorage collided with its radio tower, knocking out its services for the entire Bristol Bay season.

The multi-million-dollar king crab fishery also took its toll on commercial fishermen last year. Tyler Bricker, 34, of Oregon, became trapped inside a king crab pot as it flew over the side of a crabber in the Bering Sea, while Joseph Lang, 31, of Kodiak, was hit by a falling crab pot as it hurled from a stack of pots on a vessel in the Bering Sea. And, Brian Rosenfield of Seattle was crushed between two crab pots on a crabber near Kodiak.

The Alaskan terrain has other hazards as well. Peter Nichols, 24, of San Pedro, California, was found stabbed to death after an argument over a card game at Sand Point.

—Related story, page 31

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The Columbia River: Waves from the Past

Early in the last century vague reports were received by the Jesuits, who had reached Lake Superior, of a great river that rose near the western end of the lake, and flowed west into the Pacific. In 1775 Captain Bruno Heceta, commander of the Spanish exploring ship *Santiago*, sailed past what he believed to be the mouth of a river on the western coast of North America, near latitude 46 degrees. He named it Rio de San Rogue, but deemed it too insignificant to be worth exploring, and so did not enter it. Three years later the great navigator Captain Cook sailed along the same coast in the *Resolution*, but failed to note any traces of the great river. In July of the same year Captain Meares visited the coast on purpose to discover whether such a river as had been mentioned by Heceta existed or not. He discovered and named Cape Disappointment, called the insignificant inlet at its base Deception Bay, and sailed away, afterward reporting that the alleged river was merely a small inlet blocked by a sand spit.

In 1789 Captain Gray, of Boston, who was the first to bear the flag of the young republic around the world, while cruising up this coast fancied that, when in about latitude 46 degrees, he saw signs of being off the mouth of an immense freshwater river, but did not have time to stop and verify his supposition. Three years later, in the spring of 1792, he again found himself on this coast, in command of the ship *Columbia*, with time enough on his hands to carry out his cherished scheme of searching for the river of whose existence he felt so certain. He sailed south from the Straits of Juan de Fuca, and on his way down the coast fell in with Captain George Vancouver, on his famous exploring expedition that ended in the discovery of Puget Sound. The two captains exchanged courtesies and compared notes. Captain Gray mentioned the river that he hoped to find, and Vancouver laughed at him. The latter said that he had carefully examined the entire coast for two hundred miles under the most favorable circumstances, that the line of breakers was unbroken, and that he had only noted signs of river water near an opening that appeared so insignificant that he did not deem it worthy of attention.

On the following day, May 11, 1792, Captain Gray sailed the *Columbia* into this significant inlet, and discovered one of the grandest rivers in the world, which he named "Columbia," in honor of his ship. He named the extreme point of Cape Disappointment Point Hancock, and the headland on the south side of the river Point Adams, after the two most distinguished men of his native State. Behind Cape Disappointment he found a beautiful bay, which he named Baker's, and to the point bounding it on the east he gave the name of Chinook.

Fifty years later the testimony of Captain Gray's log-book gave the notable river that he thus discovered to the United States, and moved the international boundary line three degrees north, to the Straits of Juan de Fuca.

On November 7, 1805, the intrepid explorers Lewis and Clark, coming from the interior, reached the mouth of the Columbia, which they called by its Indian name of Oregon.

In March, 1811, a company of fur traders, sent out from New York by John Jacob Astor, founded the settlement of Astoria, near the mouth of the river, which thus became the first American settlement on the Pacific coast. Astoria struggled for existence for three years, and then fell into the hands of the British, who changed its name to Fort George. It is comparatively but a short time ago that it again came under the American flag, and was rechristened Astoria. Today it is a flourishing city containing several thousand inhabitants, who are very proud of their handsome Masonic Hall, their Custom-house, and, above all, of the immense salmon-canning business conducted by their merchants. The canning establishments are huge unsightly structures of wood, built out over the river on piles, and in them the entire process of preparing and canning the salmon is conducted by Chinese workmen. But if these establishments are blemishes on the landscape, the fishing fleet which sails out from Astoria every evening during the season presents a most picturesque sight. The boats are small, sharp at both ends, cat-rigged, and each carries the two men necessary to manage the gill-net with which its cargo is to be secured. A favorite resort for the fishermen is in the vicinity of Pillar Rock, which rises abruptly from near the middle of the river a few miles above Astoria. From here they pursue their prey down to the mouth of the river, where it sometimes happens that they cast their nets so near the bar that the outgoing tide, rushing like a mill-race, sweeps them into the remorseless breakers. The products of their toil have found their way into every market in the world, and today Columbia River canned salmon commands a higher price than any other.

Reprinted from Harper's Weekly magazine, August 2, 1884.

District 4 News

The annual Sportfishing Show was held in Portland February 8-12. There was a good turnout of volunteers for the Salmon for All booth, thanks to Carolyn Viuhkola, N.J. Leino, Loretta Viuhkola, Charlene Neimela, Darliss Hyke, and Gayle and Vern Forsberg.

Due to the big freeze, the fishermen's snagging schedules were postponed until the week of the show, so the women manned the booth. Any person wishing to volunteer their time should call Cynthia at the Salmon for All office at 325-3831.

The fishing industry is still alive and well in the upriver area around Clatskanie. Gary Viuhkola's Beaver Valley Marine recently delivered a new boat

for Gary Graves. Beaver Valley has been very busy with boat repairs and rebuilds.

Gary Viuhkola and Greg Poysky's Clatskanie Marine has been under construction, with a new fish receiving dock and net racking area. Clatskanie Marine is the old Union Fish Station at Wallace.

Bob and Darliss Hyke have been busy building a new expansion at Mayger Dock, the old Point Adams station. The new dock area is 72 by 64 feet.

My thought is, with so much growth and vitality in the gillnet industry, after ten years of just barely getting by, why is man now trying to kill us off when Mother Nature didn't? I guess man is our worst enemy!

—Darliss Hyke



Moby's parents



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Salmon for All celebrates new offices with open house

ASTORIA — In what was called "the beginning of a new era," Salmon for All opened its doors for a celebration of its new offices at No. 1 Sixth Street Friday, March 10.

Attended by roomfuls of mayors, county and port commissioners, business owners and many other dignitaries from both sides of the Columbia who came to wish their best to the local group, the day was filled with everything from the usual fanfare of balloons, to a computer system demonstration, to a tempting variety of salmon dishes.

The new office, formerly the Kinney salmon cannery and later the Alaska operations office for Bumble Bee Sea-

foods, is located on the new Sixth Street Park facility across from No. 10 Sixth Street, an office and retail development formerly the executive offices for Bumble Bee Seafoods.

According to a SFA spokesman, the new location is a "unique opportunity for growth and education within the Columbia River fishing industry." It is hopeful that thousands of people this summer, and many summers to come, will visit the new pier, see the SFA markings and enter the office.

"This leads, of course, to better visibility for the organization and increased opportunity to educate people to the river's commercial fishery," the spokesperson added.

Historic building may be added to Register

The old Kinney salmon cannery at No. 1 Sixth Street may become listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The cannery, built in 1876, is the third-oldest cannery remaining in Astoria. It is a stoic example of post-and-timber construction of the late 1800's.

The building is, fittingly, now the home of Salmon for All.

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In the shipping lanes

Burned, abandoned ship drifts in Pacific for months, used for illegal fish operation

SEATTLE — A burned and abandoned Taiwanese ship which was discovered drifting aimlessly in the shipping lanes approximately 450 miles off Cape Flattery in the Pacific Ocean, has been found to have been used for catching illegal salmon on the high seas, the National Marine Fisheries Service now confirms.

The vessel, registered in Taiwan as the *Jym Zheng No. 36*, was sighted this winter by the *Arco Juneau*, according to Quartermaster 1st Class Robert Goodrich of the Coast Guard office in Seattle, on the Northwest tip of the Olympic Peninsula.

The *Jym Zheng No. 36* was disguised as a squid fishing vessel, but traces of young chum and sockeye salmon were found in a hold when the vessel was searched at Port Angeles, according to Wayne Lewis, NMFS special agent in charge of the law enforcement division in Seattle.

Taiwanese vessels are not allowed to take salmon on the high seas. The Coast Guard was not able to contact the owners of the vessel, or determine why the ship was simply abandoned and then left to drift in one of the Pacific's busiest shipping lanes, according to Goodrich. The vessel did not report a distress call at any time, or report the incident to the Coast Guard. It was also not clear as to how the crew managed to leave the *Jym Zheng*.

Reportedly, a fire broke out within the vessel, and 17 crew members left the ship, with one not so fortunate. A badly burned body was found on board.

The Coast Guard cutter *Active* towed the *Jym Zheng* to Port Angeles for a thorough search, dismantling and removal of the some 40,000 gallons of fuel oil. Originally, the *Jym Zheng* was to be towed to Portland to decide its fate, but the Coast Guard decided on Port Angeles, Washington, where the *Active* is based.

Lewis said that the NMFS will complete their investigation and report the findings to Taiwanese authorities for further action.

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—Jim Bernard
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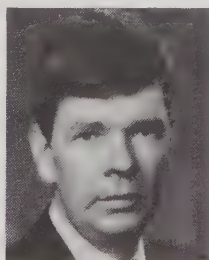
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Columbia River Drift Rights: Can they be protected?

A Fisherman's Story

The past two years have seen serious encroachment problems on upper river drifts. After 17 days of snagging in 1988, at a cost of \$12,000 not including our time, there were 22 outside boats on the Kalama channel drift during the seasons. Typically, there is room for just four.

About 15 of the outside boats were from Chinook, the rest from Puget Sound. When the September season opened, the outside boats were very belligerent, and nobody caught any fish (200-400 pounds was common). One boat 2 miles below our drift caught 11,400 pounds opening night.

I heard some outside boats on the radio, saying at least they hadn't damaged their gear, so they knew it was a clean bottom.

The real problems began when 5 Puget Sound boats, infamous troublemakers on the Sound and Bristol Bay as well, stayed on the drift. Never have I hated fishing as much — the joy was gone. The boats even brought in a local policeman to stop us from fishing in a "bothersome" manner. That police officer was fired.

These boats have been cited for many fishing violations. In good faith we offered to clean a drift for them, one not usually fished. They agreed, but didn't pay the diver, and continued to fish the Kalama drift.

The disaster of the fall season prompted Kalama and Caples drifts, and the Altoona Snag Union to form the Columbia River Drift Alliance. We contracted a study on drift rights, hired a lobbyist, and drafted bills and legislation to recognize drift rights. Due to the importance of the fight against sport fishery priority bills, CRDA has decided to present our bills next year, in order to better prepare and receive more support from drift right owners.

Our biggest problems are misconceptions. #1: The CRDA was formed out of a Jim Toteff and Steve Gray beef. This is not true. Twenty-two boats on the Kalama drift is not a two-person squabble.

#2: Your drift cannot be "invaded" because you have lots of boats. This is not true, as the outside boats that have spent much money on permits feel they can fish anywhere. You cannot outmuscle them or out firepower them. They love conflict, and all that results is negative pub-

licity. Joe Blum has said that if the fishery gets violent, he'll shut it down. His support of the sport fishery bill shows he is anxious for a reason to shut down the gillnetters on the Columbia.

The drift right issue affects every drift right owner on the river. CRDA needs to hear from all of you. We will be discussing our legislation with lawmakers the rest of the year, aiming at making a 100-year-old tradition and way of life recognized as law.

We would appreciate a 1 percent donation of your 1988 gross catch, but any contribution is welcome. Most important, we need to know the fishermen, drift

right owners as well as not, who support drift rights! Send in your name, address, phone number, drift name, drift location and any recurring problems. We will honestly and sincerely attempt to address your concerns.

If you have any further comments or questions, feel free to call me at 206/297-2571, or Dan Stephens at 206/465-2468, or Kent or Irene Martin at 206/795-3920.

Bill Sibbett

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Did you Know?

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The first artificial effort toward aiding nature in hatching salmon for the Columbia River runs was undertaken on the Clackamas River in 1877 ...

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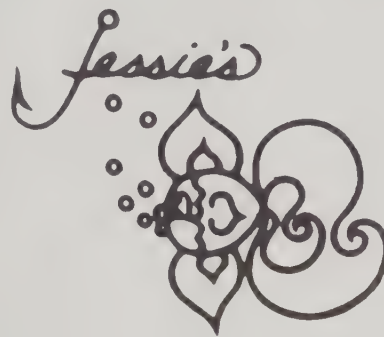
Beginning December, 1988 a new international shipboard pollution prevention convention will regulate, with priority given to prohibiting the discharge of plastic waste anywhere in the sea. It also greatly restricts the disposal of other types of garbage from vessels. Stiff fines will be given to violators. A complete list of prohibited materials, fines, etc., is available at CRFPU ...

CRFPU has a bulletin board in its office available for the fishermen and their families to place want ads, help wanted ads, items for sale, services, etc. Just call 325-2702 or drop by the Union office at 322 Tenth Street, Astoria.

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Letters

Fishing is important!

Does anyone know how important commercial fishing is to our community? Many do know that it is very critical to the economy here. What many people do not know is that the sport fishermen in our state have proposed the Sutherland Bill, stating that they should be entitled to all of the Coho and Chinook salmon returning to the Columbia river.

The bill, if it passes, could ruin small Columbia River fishing towns like ours.

Many sportsmen must not realize that if they shut commercial fishing down, they will be hurting themselves greatly also.

The reason they will be hurting themselves is the U.S./Canada Bilateral Salmon Treaty which, in short, lets more fish through to the Columbia. The treaty will most likely be broken if the bill passes.

If the Canadians believe that too many fish are going to be wasted, they will start raising their catch quotas again and there will be few fish for anyone on the Columbia.

The commercial fishermen fought hard to get this treaty, and also organized Salmon For All. Salmon For All is the organization that most commercial fishermen and fish buyers have joined to educate people about the necessities of commercial fishing. They did this to benefit everyone, not just themselves.

Things work very well when organizations work together, but the sports fishermen are defeating the purpose by trying to get all the fish for themselves. It seems as if they don't want to be very good sports.

—Clay Olsen, student
Wahkiakum High School
Wahkiakum, WA

The snakes crawl at night

One evening last October my son Craig and I were picking up our net after low water in the Tongue Point area. I saw a big glob of grass, weeds and sticks come over the stern roller. I stopped the net reel to allow Craig to clear the mess. He grabbed the glob,

(Continued next column)

jumped and yelled, "A snake bit me." I replied, "there are no (censor) snakes out here." He said look over the stern. Sure enough, there was a garter snake swimming around. It evidently had its den in the weeds, and got washed away from land.

—Hank Ramvick
Astoria

Something on your mind?

If you would like to submit a letter to the editor, we would like to hear from you. Drop it in the mail, or drop by the office.

Editor
Columbia River Gillnetter
322 Tenth Street
Astoria, OR 97103



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Turn-of-the-Century Horsepower

Here is Desdemona Sands at the turn-of-the-century. Top shows the seining grounds with Astoria in background. Horse-drawn seines were used to catch fish. Note owner of grounds observing the goings-on. Bottom photo shows seine crew in front of their bunkhouse. Two women are cooks. Many local boys earned college money seining in early 1900's. —Photos courtesy Mona Buchalter

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*Shad season set***1988 Harvest totals announced**

The large, healthy Columbia River Shad run comes with depressed runs of spring and summer chinook, and, in some years, runs of sockeye and summer steelhead. Because of the depressed status of upriver salmonid runs, the main-stem Columbia River (Area 2S) shad seasons have operated with stringent time, area and gear restrictions. These restrictions make only a small portion of the total run available for harvest. Only shad may be kept and sold.

The 1988 shad gillnet season in Area 2S consisted of 19 days, May 23 to June 17. For the third consecutive year the fishery was on a higher level than the fisheries of the early 1980's, due to somewhat improved shad marketing conditions. The 1988 catch was 101,300 shad, but was only a small portion of what was available for harvest — about 5 percent of the record high run of 2.2 million shad in 1988.

For 1989, the recommendations are:
Daily, 4 am to 10 pm:

May 22-26, five days
May 30-June 2, four days
June 5-9, five days
June 12-16, five days

Gear for the season will be a single-wall, unslackened floater net, 5-3/8 to 6-1/4", with 10-pound breaking strength. (In effect since 1976.)

The area for the season will be the true north-south line through Light #50 near the Sandy River mouth upstream to boundary near Beacon Rock. (In effect since 1976.)

In the Camas-Washougal Reef area, there has been a long-standing annual shad fishery, as its physical characteristics allow shad to be harvested without an incidental catch of salmonid.

Fishing activity has been light during the last several years, but shad are available and a harvest opportunity should be provided. In 1988, about 5,000 shad were landed in this fishery.

Recommendations for the 1989 season (which is 5 days longer than in 1988) in the Camas-Washougal Reef area are:

(Continued next column)

Weekly, 4 am Monday to 10 pm Friday:

May 22-26, five days
May 30-June 2, four days
June 5-9, five days
June 12-16, five days
June 19-23, five days

This area begins at about upper Lady Island to just below Reed Island. As in most areas, shad only may be kept and sold. All salmonids, walleye and sturgeon must be immediately returned to the water, and those alive must be released unharmed. (In effect since 1969.)

'88 Fish Recap

Below Bonneville Dam, winter season dates have been established since 1878. The season dates were January 1 to March 1, 1878-1942; January 29 to March 1, 1943-58; February 15 to March 1, 1959-67; and as late as March 11.

The 1988 winter season was scheduled for 13 days, February 16 to March 4, with weekend closures and an 18,500-19,500 chinook harvest guideline. At the Compact meeting held March 3, the joint staff reported the projected chinook catch through the season-ending date of March 4 to be 15,600, well short of the harvest

guideline. The joint staff recommended a 2-day extension of the season, with an expected catch of 2,500, as an attempt to reach the 18,500 to 19,500 harvest guideline.

The Compact adopted the continuance March 4-6, in the area downstream of the Longview bridge. The final 1988 catches were 16,700 through March 4, 1988, plus 1,600 for the extension totaling 18,300, near the bottom of the harvest guideline range.

Sturgeon landings below Bonneville Dam in 1988 from salmon gillnet fisheries were 6,200 white and 2,500 green sturgeon. The '88 harvest was the lowest since 1970 when 6,300 white and 1,300 green sturgeon were landed.

Recreational Sturgeon landings declined in 1988, well down from the record landings of 1987. Total catch in '88 was 47,800 whites, compared to 62,400 in '87.

Harvest Shares

During the 1977-82 period, the average catch proportions of the total combined annual catch were 69 percent sport and 31 percent commercial. The proportions in 1983 and 1984 were similar to this, however since 1985 the sport share of the total catches has increased to over 80 percent each year. The rise since '85 is due to increasing recreational catches, while commercial catches are declining.

Chinook Runs

Spring chinook entering the lower

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Columbia River from mid-February to Mid-March are predominantly large 5-year-old fish from lower river tributary stocks. The catch during the 1981-88 winter seasons averaged 86 percent 5-year-old, 12 percent 4-year-old and 2 percent 6-year-old fish. Five-year-old chinook are dominant throughout March and reach peak abundance in the lower Columbia by late March. The smaller, 4-year-old fish enter in increasing numbers after mid-March, reaching a peak in April.

Recovery of marked hatchery fish during past commercial winter seasons and March Columbia sport fisheries indicates the majority of the chinook caught were Willamette River fish. These fish are dominant because of a greater abundance of early-entering 5-year-old fish than are found in other spring chinook runs. Of the remaining chinook landed, most are destined for other lower river tributaries such as the Cowlitz, Kalama, Lewis, Sandy and the upper Columbia. Upriver chinook destined for above Bonneville Dam begin entering the Columbia in great numbers after mid-march and generally peak in the lower Columbia near mid-April.

Willamette River Run

Although Willamette fish are dominant in the winter season, the bulk of the run actually enters the lower Columbia after the season closes. The run peaks in the Columbia from mid-March to mid-April, with decreasing numbers entering into May. The 1988 Willamette run entering the Columbia was 118,200, the largest

run on record. The 1988 age class components were 64,000 4-year-olds (a record), 51,000 5-year-olds (also a record), 1,000 6-year-olds and 2,100 jacks.

The largest catch of Willamette fish occurs in the lower river sport fishery. In 1988 the commercial fishery caught 11,300 (27 percent) and the combined sport fisheries caught a record high 30,200 (73 percent) Willamette spring chinook. But, neither fishery attained the preseason harvest estimates of 14,250 Willamette fish in the winter season, or 33,250 in the sport fisheries.

The catch rate is influenced by several factors including abundance of fish, fishing effort and water conditions. During March-May 1988 Willamette water conditions were mostly high and clear. This usually produces above average harvest rates for spring chinook anglers. Success was high in the Oregon City and Portland sections, with the catch here the highest since 1974. However, the rare circumstances of a high Willamette coupled with a low flow in the Columbia, evidently caused a major portion of the run to enter the river at Kelley Point instead of the usual entry via the Multnomah Channel at St. Helens. This conclusion is based on the relatively poor harvest rate experienced by Multnomah Channel anglers. This channel is usually the major catch producing area of the three sections of the Willamette fishery, averaging nearly 60 percent of the total catch. In 1988, Multnomah Channel produced only 42 percent of the Willamette catch or about 10,000 fish less

than expected under the average catch proportions for the three sections.

Because of the unusual diversion pattern of fish entering the Willamette and the shortfall in the Multnomah Channel catch, the overall harvest rate by anglers in 1988 in the lower Willamette and lower Clackamas fisheries was reduced to 26 percent of the run entering the Willamette.

Willamette Falls Sports and Indian Fishery

The number of spring chinook passing Willamette Falls annually since 1970 has averaged 38,000 fish. Generally, an escapement of at least 30,000 fish passing the falls into the upper Willamette is adequate for spawning needs and provides for some sport fishing. Counts in excess of 30,000 fish provide for additional sport fishing in the upper basin.

The sport catch above Willamette Falls for 1977-85 has ranged from 1,800 to 4,400, or 6 to 9 percent of the Willamette Falls count.

The hatchery egg take needs for the combined Willamette and Clackamas programs have been met annually since 1980.

The 1988 count of 70,500 at Willamette Falls was the largest count since 1953, and resulted in 23,800 returning to hatcheries, of which 8,000 were sold as surplus, and 3,700 were made available to the Columbia River treaty tribes as the balance of their minimum ceremonial and subsistence entitlement.

(Continued next page)



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RIVER HARVESTS

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Sandy River Run

The fish returning to the Sandy originate from hatchery stocks in the Willamette system. The run is building due to increased releases of hatchery smolts. The 1988 run was a record high 4,600 fish.

Cowlitz, Kalama and Lewis River Runs

These runs are essentially supported by hatchery production and are closely

related genetically. The fish in these runs migrate somewhat earlier than upriver stocks with the majority passing through the Lower Columbia from mid-March to mid-May. The Cowlitz Hatchery has experienced returns surplus to egg-take requirements in all recent years. In 1988 the three runs totaled 24,900 fish, which is below the 1980-84 average.

Upriver Run

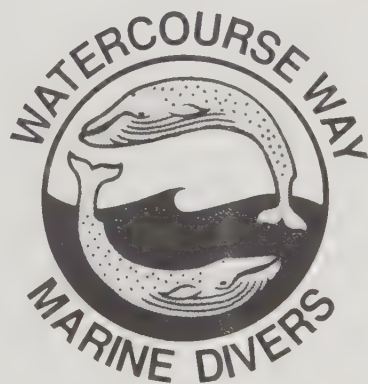
Upriver spring chinook destined for above Bonneville Dam generally comprise about 10 percent of the catch during the combined winter season and the March Columbia sport fishery. The upriver run enters the Columbia in substantial numbers after mid-March, with peak abundance from mid-April

to mid-May.

The lower river catch of upriver fish varies with season timing, relative abundance and run timing. During the 1981-87 winter seasons, annual averages of 800 upriver fish were landed (9 percent of the total catch), and 300 upriver fish were taken (13 percent of the catch) in the March Columbia sport fishery that closed April 1 each year.

Stock composition of winter gillnet and sport fisheries from 1981-87 were based upon analyses of recovered coded-wire-tags (CWT); however, variability in tagging rates between stocks has consistently confounded these analyses. The 1988 winter season catch was sampled for genetic stock identification (GSI).

Because of recent improvements to GSI methods and the absence of



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CWT's in some lower river stocks, the joint staff feels the GSI estimate is the more accurate indicator of the true number of upriver spring chinook caught in the 1988 winter season.

Based on GSI sampling, it was estimated 5,100 upriver spring chinook (5.3 percent of the run) were caught in the 1988 winter season. Based on an adult terminal mark rate CWT analysis, it was estimated 1,400 chinook (1.4 percent of the run) were caught in the March main-stem sport fishery. The aggregate catch total is 6,500 fish (6.7 percent of the upriver spring chinook run). The joint staff believes the unusually high upriver proportion was caused by biological variabilities, such as migration timing anomalies and predicted versus actual run sizes. It appears the upriver run migrated earlier than normal, and the Willamette run migrated later than normal in 1988.

Migration variability is known to occur in salmon stocks. Also, the return of 5-year-old upriver spring chinook was much larger (65 percent) than forecasted, while 5-year-old returns to Washington tributaries were 6 percent less than expected; the 5-year-olds are known to be the earliest migrating age within a stock. Curiously, the Willamette 5-year-old component was even larger than forecasted (22 percent), but apparently entered freshwater too late to dominate the fishery as expected.

The upriver spring chinook run totaled 97,000 adults in 1988. The run was slightly below the 1986 and 1987 runs, but was a definite improvement over the poor run years of 1979-84.

—Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

From Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

1989 spring chinook run forecast

In the Willamette River, a return of 102,000 spring chinook will enter the Columbia in 1989. The projection is made up of 51,000 5-year-olds, 48,000 4-year-olds and 3,000 3- and 6-year-olds.

In the Sandy River, the 1989 run is expected to be a record high 5,000 fish. The prediction for the increased run is based on a doubling of smolt releases began in 1987.

In the Cowlitz, Lewis and Kalama Rivers, the Washington Department of Fisheries is projecting a combined 1989 Washington lower river tributary adult spring chinook minimum run of 16,100 fish, about forty percent less than the 1980-88 average of 27,400. A projected 1989 Cowlitz return of 6,100 fish is the lowest since

1972, but more than enough to attain necessary escapement without fishery restrictions.

The Lewis River run is expected to be 9,100 fish, down from '87 and '88, but well above pre-1986 returns.

The Kalama River is projected to be minor, at 900 fish.

Columbia River upriver spring chinook originate from hatchery and natural production areas upstream of Bonneville Dam. Current runs are mostly hatchery fish. Runs were poor in 1979-84 (47-71,000 fish) with a low point in 1984. Returns in '85-88 (85-121,000 fish) were better with a high point in '86. The 1989 Upriver Run is predicted to be 92,700, with 61,500 4-year-olds and 31,200 5-year-olds.

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Although Fish & Game predictions conservative

'89 Bristol Bay forecast looks good in most districts

ANCHORAGE — Bristol Bay probably won't be a bad place to be during this summer's Alaska salmon season.

And the Naknek/Kvichak district probably won't be a bad district in which to fish. This district looks like the hot spot for 1989. The most conservative prediction comes from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, which estimates 16 million fish will return here.

Escapement goals are 1 million for the Naknek, 8 million for the Kvichak.

The Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association, however, predicts over 28 million red salmon will enter the Naknek/Kvichak system in 1989 — a marked improvement from 1988, when a total of 13 million fish entered the district.

Projected run totals for the bay are 29 million from ADF&G, 40 million from AIFMA.

Egegik always seems to turn out a good season and 1989 looks to be no different, as ADF&G predicts a run of 5.6 million fish, with 1 million for escapement. AIFMA's predictions are a more conservative 3.2 million.

Ugashik fishermen can expect a fair year as well. ADF&G says 3.6 million fish will return to the district, while just 700,000 are wanted for escapement.

As far as 1989 catches go, ADF&G predicts 6.8 million fish will be netted in the Naknek/Kvichak district, while AIFMA says nearly 20 million will be caught.

Catches in the Egegik district should be about 5 million, according to ADF&G, but AIFMA says only 2.2 million fish will be caught.

Ugashik fishermen will catch nearly 3 million fish according to fish and game, while AIFMA's prediction is close behind at 2.7 million.

In the Nushagak district, ADF&G says 1.4 million salmon will be netted, while AIFMA predicts a more hopeful 2.4 million will return. Escapement goals here are 1.7 million.

The Togiak catch will total one-half million fish, according to both ADF&G and AIFMA, with just 150,000 wanted for escapement.

Projected catch totals for the bay range from just over 16 million from ADF&G to over 27 million from AIFMA.



Stormy Seas

Here halibut schooner Arrow battles a rough one on Alaska's halibut fishing grounds in the late 1970's. Owned by Jack Cartwright and David Kelley, the Arrow often fished 70 miles offshore near Kodiak with a 4-man crew plus skipper. —Photo courtesy Ralph Norgaard

1989 PROJECTED RUNS *

	ADF&G	FRI	AIFMA
NAKNEK — KVICHAK			
Kvichak	12.5	20.4	24.1
Naknek	3.1	3.6	4.0
Branch	.4	.3	.4
Subtotal	16.0	24.3	28.5
EGEGIK	5.6	6.7	3.2
UGASHIK	3.6	3.0	3.4
NUSHAGAK			
Wood	1.9	2.0	2.5
Igushik	.4	.5	.59
Nyuyakuk	.8	.9	1.1
Subtotal	3.1	3.4	4.18
TOGIAC	.6	.6	.6
Bristol Bay total	28.9	38.0	39.9

*all figures are in millions of fish

Six fishermen drown in Alaska waters as crabber goes down

TRINITY ISLANDS, AK — In a wild, icy Alaskan wind storm with 70+ mph gusts, the king crabber *Vestfjord* and her six Seattle-based fishermen were lost to the elements.

And what powerful elements they were. Officials from the National Weather Service here claimed a wind chill factor of about 50-60 degrees F below zero was whistling that dark January night.

The *Vestfjord* went down about 30 miles south of the Trinity Islands. It is presumed that the vessel sank under the weight of ice which formed from the 30-foot seas, whipped by the wind.

All six fishermen aboard drowned, and only one has been found. Douglas Harding, 35, of Edmonds, Washington, was found clad in a survival suit several weeks later on the Alaska Peninsula.

The five other crewmen who perished were Rick Kristovich, Richard LeGary, Kevin Melnick, Danny McDonald and William Hodgins, all of the Seattle area.

"We always knew that sometime, somebody would not come home," Pat Kristovich, the father of one victim, said. "But I'll still fish."

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The "Zarambro"

Here Karlo Karna of Astoria races down the river in the *Zarambro*, a boat he built for Cook Inlet in 1948.

Built in the old Union Fish warehouse on Smith Point, the boat, a 28-footer powered by a 140 horsepower Chrysler Royal straight 8, was proven too small for the Alaska fishery and was replaced by a 32-footer.

—Photo courtesy
Ralph Norgaard

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SB 5156SS: Directs construction of a 3-mile spawning channel for salmon on the Cedar River, to be completed by the 1990 sockeye run.

HB 1362: Amends provisions of license forfeiture law, requires license forfeiture for 3 or more convictions in 1-year period for fishing violations. Current law requires forfeiture for 2 violations in 5 years.

SB 5477: Requires (Washington) Department of Fisheries and attorney general to enforce mitigation agreements with hydroelectric dam operators. Authorizes individuals to bring legal action in Superior Court against director for failure to comply with act requirements.

SB 5306: Requires all revenue generated by sale of salmon or salmon parts be placed in account for volunteer enhancement programs.

SB 5292: Directs the (Washington) Department of Fisheries to develop a salmon retail market identification program for salmon caught in Washington state waters.

SB 5290: Requires the Salmon Advisory Council to convene at least once every 3 months to advise fisheries department on salmon issues.

SB 5289S: Authorizes 6 regional fisheries enhancement groups. Provides funding and encourages state and local coordination to enhance growth of state fisheries.

BILLS WE OPPOSE

SB 5818: Changes fisheries violations from gross misdemeanor to Class C felony.

HB 2011: Greatly increases commercial fishing license fees now and every 3 years in accordance with impact price deflator published by U.S. Department of Commerce.

SB 5146: Establishes salmon preservation area south of Hood Canal floating bridge. Would phase out commercial fishing in Hood Canal within 4 years.

HB 1200: Provides for involuntary sale of troll licenses and provides for reallocating troll catches to sport fisheries.

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It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's a Super Salmon!

AVEROY, NORWAY — Here on this little island, there are people who claim that Reidar Honningsoy is creating a monster.

"A Norwegian Frankenstein?" you ask. "A Scandinavian Jaws?"

Of course not. But Honningsoy has developed a new kind of fish that's going to change the lives of thousands of fishermen. It's called the "Super Salmon," and it already outperforms any salmon in any ocean — in size, speed, strength, growth rate and disease resistance — as well as in taste.

Salmon populations in oceans today are in trouble. In the North Pacific, salmon are down 60 percent. Pollution is seen as the major cause, but recently some rare viruses have appeared, like hemorrhagic septicemia or VHS, which can kill off millions of salmon in just a few days.

Sometimes, too, man's best intentions can be lethal. Seal hunting, for example, has been mainly outlawed, resulting in millions of the mammals, each eating some 60 pounds of fish per day.

What's to be done? A few years ago, some people thought fish could be raised in net-enclosed sea pens — sort of like ocean fish farms. But sea pens created pollution, which killed many of the salmon.

Enter 38-year-old computer engineer Reidar Honningsoy. Reidar was never a fisherman, though his family members were 20-generation fishermen. He has a vivid recollection of fishing with his grandfather, and seeing millions of salmon swimming along the coast of Norway as he peered from the boat. "You could walk on water by stepping over them," he remembers.

But memories can sometimes fuel ambitions. Back then, people thought salmon needed lots of space as they attempted to raise them in stream-fed ponds. But Reidar remembered the old days, when the fish swam packed together. Why? Obviously because they *liked* swimming together.

So, it's 1989, and Honningsoy's fish laboratory, Aquatech Systems, is the largest of its kind in the world.

It's home to thousands of salmon which never go to sea. Instead, they swim in computer-controlled tanks, 45 feet across, each containing as many as 30,000 salmon. They reach about 8 pounds in one year.

In the process, all fish are vaccinated against disease, and swim in disease-free water pumped in from 100 feet below sea level. A carefully controlled stream of oxygen-enriched water is pumped into the tank, against which the fish are continually swimming. True to their instincts, they love it. This gives them 24-hour exercise and awesome bodies.

The holding tanks are self-cleaning. All loose material flows to the center, where it is sucked out and solids are turned into fertilizer. Water temperature, said to be very important for proper development as well as migration, is computer-controlled.

Honningsoy's salmon live in high-density conditions — up to 200 lbs. per cubic yard. Being social creatures, the closer they are to each other, the better they like it.

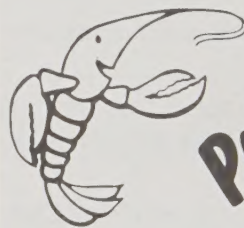
But for regular ocean salmon, life is stressful. Changing water tempera-

tures, (which they hate), food hunting and swimming from predators make it a jungle out there — and the result is a poorer fish — and a smaller one.

The demand for quality fish is growing at a dramatic pace — people are changing their diets and eating less red meat — and more fish. Yet supply is plummeting, and prices are rising. Catches are sinking, fishermen aren't working, fishing companies are going bankrupt.

What's the solution? High-tech fish farming, says Honningsoy, who recently signed a multi-million-dollar contract with a West German firm to build and manage a "super salmon" farm. Three top contracts with U.S. companies are in the works.

And the taste of the "super salmon?" Four-star restaurants around the world are already lining up for a chance to buy the best-tasting salmon in the world.



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Washington poll results show

Citizens support commercial fisheries

The results of a February telephone survey of some 500 Washingtonians show that the public thinks commercial fishing is more important in economic value to their state than recreational interests.

The poll, conducted by TH Research of Portland and commissioned by Salmon for All, asked 504 registered Washington voters about the issue, and 78 percent of them placed commercial fisheries above sports fisheries, and even tourism, when it comes to economic importance. The voters said they think the two fishing interest groups should be treated equally by the lawmakers, with no advantage or favoritism given to either. The enhancement of fish runs was placed high on the priority list of the respondents.

One could conclude from the poll results that any initiative or petition by the Washington Department of Fisheries which does not treat each user group fairly and equitably, (like the two bills now in the works in Salem), would not fare well at the ballot box.

The poll was conducted between February 1 and 5. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percent.



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